

**March 2006**

# *Monthly News for the Wachusett Working Landscapes Partnership*

## **PLEASE ATTEND**

**Wednesday  
March 22  
7–9 PM  
Leominster City  
Hall  
25 West Street**

## **Massachusetts Smart Growth Tool Kit Workshop**

**YOU ARE INVITED  
TO A FREE  
COMMUNITY  
MEETING**

*Sponsored by the MA EOE,*

*Wachusett Working  
Landscapes Partnership,  
Mayor Mazzarella and the  
Leominster Planning  
Department*

**RSVP requested**

Contact: Ed Himlan at  
978.534.0379 or Email:  
mwc@commonwaters.org

## **The Facts about Low Impact Development — A series on LID techniques —**

With this issue the Monthly News will begin a series of articles about Low Impact Development (LID) techniques. The information is adapted from the Low Impact Development Fact Sheets prepared by the Metropolitan Area Planning Council of Boston, available on line at: <http://www.mapc.org/LID.html>.

### **LID Site Design - a Four-Step Process**

#### **1. Site Analysis**

LID site design begins with an examination of the environmental and hydrologic conditions on the site to identify important natural features to protect from development. Important fea-

tures include streams, floodplains, wetlands, groundwater recharge areas, steep slopes and erosion-prone soils, working forests and farmlands and important wildlife habitat. They also include scenic vistas, and sites of cultural and historical significance.

#### **2. Identify the Building Envelope**

The analysis will identify a "building envelope" where development can occur with minimal environmental impact.

#### **3. Locate Development & Roads**

Within the development envelope, a site layout is created. Development goals are to minimize impervious

areas and stormwater runoff, cluster buildings, conform to the existing topography and use existing drainageways, swales and depressions in their natural state. Roadways into the development site are laid out.

#### **4. Draw the Lot Lines for homes in the development.**

LID site design emphasizes stormwater treatment through many small, decentralized treatment structures rather than the conventional "pipe and pond" approaches. LID design uses stormwater control practices that allow runoff to infiltrate the ground on site. These methods help maintain groundwater levels, stream flows and use the soil to help filter pollutants.

## **Free Smart Growth Tool Kit Workshop**

The MA Executive Office of Environmental Affairs, the Wachusett Working Landscapes Partnership, Mayor Mazzarella and the Leominster Planning Department will co-host a free Smart Growth Tool Kit Workshop on Wednesday, March 22 from 7 to 9 PM at the Leominster City Hall, 25 West Street.

This workshop will introduce the Tool Kit that provides guidance for municipal boards, community groups, developers and residents of central Massachusetts.

Smart Growth can protect natural resources, enhance quality of life, offer better housing choices and improve municipal finances.

The Tool Kit has information on techniques such as Low Impact Development, Agricultural Preservation, Open Space Residential Design and Inclusionary Zoning.

Pre-registration is requested to aid planning. Please contact Ed Himlan at: 978.534.0379 or email: [mwc@commonwaters.org](mailto:mwc@commonwaters.org).